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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

8 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Colonel B. B. Talley, G-2
Captain Ray Halpass, ONI
Colonel Edward H. Porter, AFOIN
Colonel S. M. Lansing, JIG

SUBJECT : Intelligence Gaps as Revealed by the Production
of NIE's

ENCLOSURE : Draft IAC Research and Collection Guide

1. For some time we have been considering what means might be employed to reduce the gaps in the intelligence possessed by us all.

2. One way of approaching the problem is to hold a post mortem on agency contributions upon the completion of an NIE. This was done by O/IE in the case of NIE-32, for example, and circulated with the request that each agency take steps within its field of responsibility to obtain additional information on subjects listed (see IAC-D-25, dated 2 July 1951).

3. This approach, which in essence is a result derived by subtracting the agency contributions from the terms of reference prepared for an estimate, seems to us sound. If, for instance, we had good intelligence on all points raised in the terms of reference for NIE-55, "Communist Capabilities and Intentions in Korea", we should have a good base for producing some really first rate estimates.

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4. The Board believes that at minimum it should leave with the responsible agencies a clear understanding of what the Board considers to be the significant gaps in intelligence as revealed during the process of producing any given NIE. We believe, however, that more would be gained if we sat down with you and got some measure of agreement as to what the significant gaps were and also got commitments to do something about these gaps.

5. This is a matter which we would like to discuss informally with your designated representatives. The enclosure is sent merely to serve as a focal point for discussion on the procedural aspects of this approach and not for substantive review.

6. It is requested that your representative meet with us in Room 146, South Building, at 10:00 Tuesday, 12-February.

W.D. 13



Executive Secretary

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